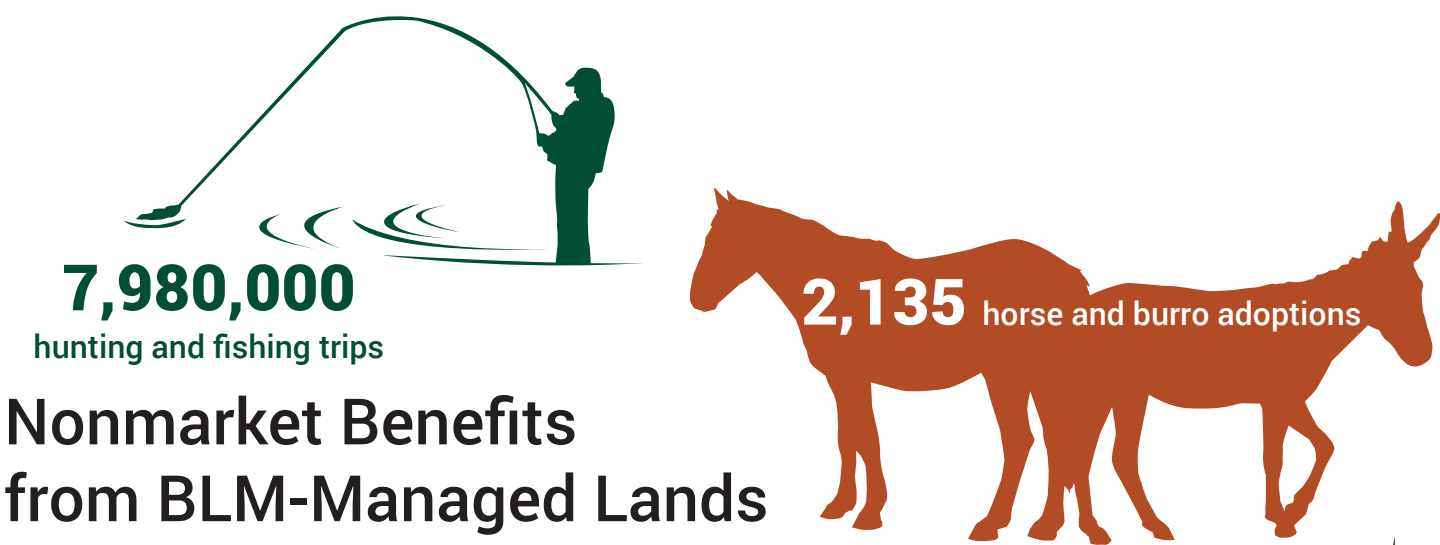


# Economic Contributions from Restoration Activities

The BLM invests in environmental restoration and monitoring in an effort to protect public assets, provide for public health and safety, and preserve and enhance essential ecosystem services. Restoration projects have the added benefit of boosting local economies by engaging providers of services such as construction, reseeding, and environmental consulting.



Many of the benefits provided by public lands are difficult to quantify because they are not reflected in economic market activity. These nonmarket benefits reflect the value that the public derives from access to our Nation's natural, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources. Examples of important nonmarket benefits gained through balanced management of BLM lands include:

- Sustaining healthy populations of the West's iconic wild horses and burros.
- Maintaining opportunities for subsistence harvesting of food and goods used for traditional purposes.
- Providing recreational opportunities, valued beyond cost in terms of the experience enjoyed by the participant.
- Supporting education and scientific research.
- Conserving Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, which protects other plant and animal species while contributing to climate moderation and enhancing water quality.

**10.5 million** artifacts and specimens in 155 museums and universities

**1.6 million** visits for interpretive and educational activities

**245** threatened and endangered species

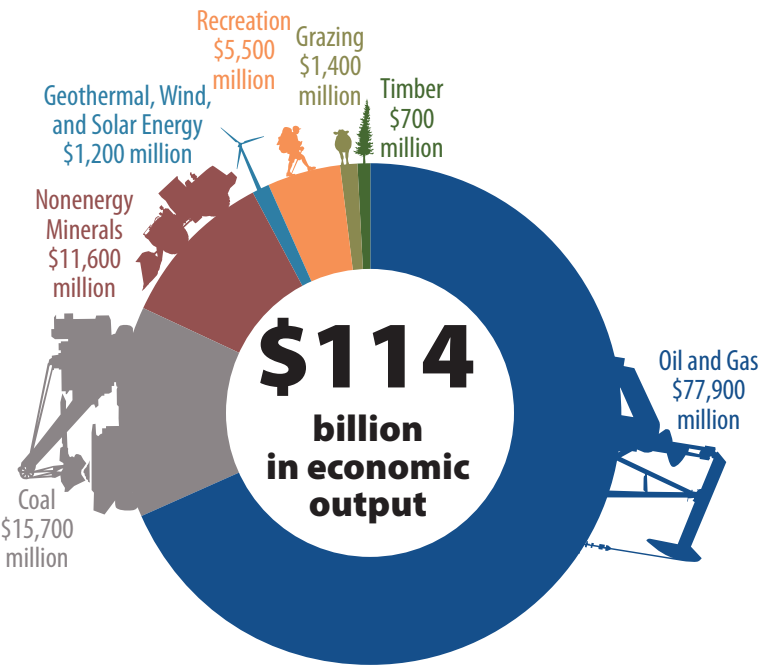
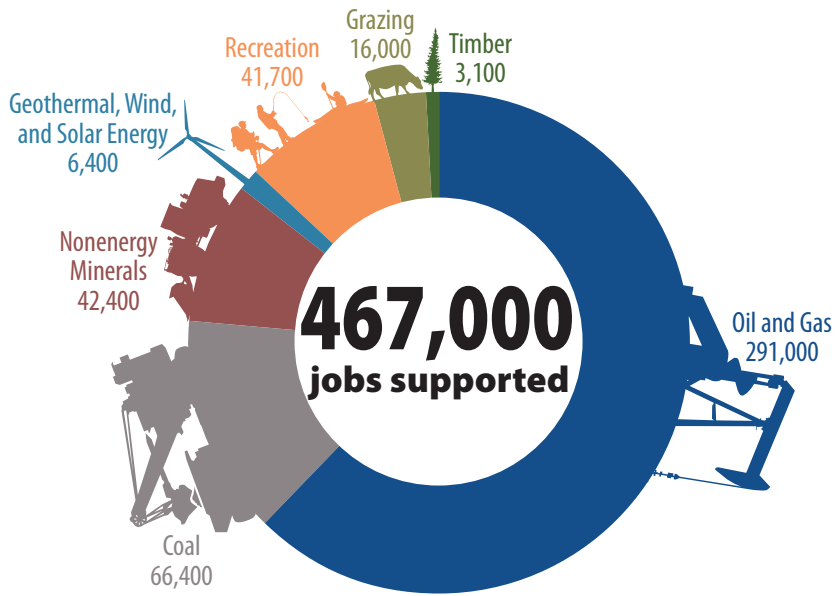


<http://blm.gov/f9jd>  
BLM/WO/GI-15/014+9500  
August 2015



# The BLM: A Sound Investment for America 2015

## Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands



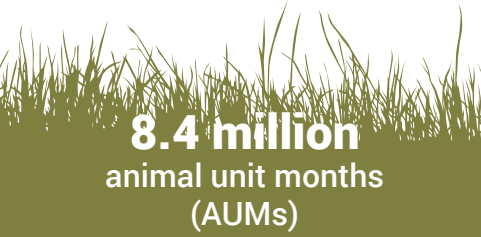
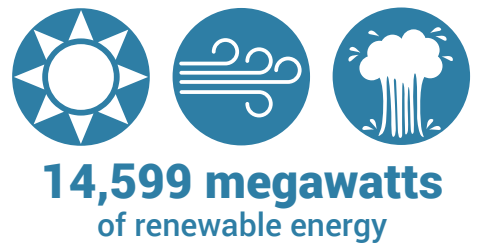
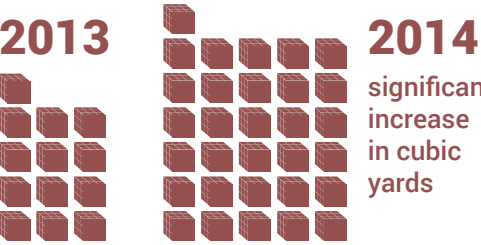
Fiscal Year 2014

America's public lands are more than just beautiful—they represent some of our Nation's greatest assets. The public lands entrusted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) generate significant and quantifiable benefits for the Nation by providing energy and mineral resources, grazing and timber resources, and recreational opportunities. Through balanced management, the BLM preserves cultural resources and iconic landscapes and maintains healthy ecosystems that provide clean air, clean water, and healthy habitat for plants and wildlife.

The BLM administers more than 245 million acres of public land and approximately 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. These lands encompass rangelands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts that enrich the country both economically and environmentally.

In fiscal year 2014, the BLM's management of the public lands supported 467,000 jobs and provided \$114 billion in economic output throughout the country, while also contributing revenue to the U.S. Treasury. Additional data are available in the 2014 "U.S. Department of the Interior Economic Report."

Economic Sectors



**Oil and gas:** The BLM leases more than 34.5 million acres of land, from the Eastern U.S. to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, for onshore oil and gas production. Production of crude oil on BLM lands continued its upward trend in 2014, rising from 137 million barrels in 2013 to 148.8 million barrels in 2014.

**Coal:** The BLM administers coal leasing on approximately 570 million acres of federal mineral estate. Coal continues to be a large source of energy in the U.S., but the continuing low cost of natural gas has spurred a shift away from coal for energy production. A decrease in coal production between 2010 and 2014 reflects this shift.

**Nonenergy minerals:** Many types of minerals are considered nonenergy minerals. Among these are mineral materials such as sand, gravel, dirt, and rock, which are essential for everyday construction uses. Because of this, mineral materials are vital to local economies. New contract sales and use permits for about 31 million cubic yards were issued in 2014, a significant increase over the 13.8 million cubic yards of new disposals issued in 2013.

**Geothermal, solar, and wind:** Since 2009, the BLM has authorized 55 solar, wind, and geothermal utility-scale renewable energy projects on public lands, including associated electric transmission facilities and infrastructure to connect to established power grids, for a total of 14,599 megawatts of renewable energy capacity. This capacity represents enough energy to power almost 5 million homes and contributes to the Climate Action Plan goal of approving 20,000 megawatts of solar energy capacity on public lands by 2020.

**Recreation:** People enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities on BLM lands. Lands used for recreational activities also contribute significantly to local economies. In 2014, BLM lands received more than 61.1 million recreation-related visits, about as many visits as the previous year.

**Grazing:** In 2014, the BLM billed ranchers who grazed their livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, for about 8.4 million animal unit months (AUMs). An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed a cow-calf, one domestic horse, or five sheep for one month. In 2014, the grazing fee was \$1.35 per AUM. While the number of AUMs sold each year remains relatively steady, annual variations occur to account for drought conditions and to accommodate restoration projects.

**Timber:** One-fourth of the 245 million acres of lands managed by the BLM are forest ecosystems, spread across 12 Western States including Alaska. Through responsible management of these lands, the BLM ensures the health and resilience of the Nation's public forest lands as well as the availability of traditional forest products, like timber. In 2014, the BLM offered 268.8 million board feet of timber for sale. This number has remained relatively steady over the past decade.

Total Economic Output for Fiscal Year 2014

	Alaska	Arizona	California	Colorado	Eastern States	Idaho	Montana (North Dakota and South Dakota)	Nevada	New Mexico (Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas)	Oregon (Washington)	Utah	Wyoming (Nebraska)
National Totals*												
Oil and Gas:												
Coal:												
Nonenergy Minerals:												
Geothermal, Wind, and Solar:												
Recreation:												
Grazing:												
Timber:												

\* National totals may differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they take into account activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.